AAU STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF NRC ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH-DOCTORATE PROGRAMS AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the public release today of the National Research Council’s assessment of graduate education programs.

On behalf of AAU, I would like to express our gratitude to the National Research Council for the substantial time and effort that has gone into this important project. We also would like to thank the participating universities for their prodigious work in gathering and reporting the data that made this project possible.

We believe that the status of doctoral research programs at our universities is of vital concern to the nation. At a time when American leadership and prosperity depend increasingly on the creation and use of knowledge, we rely on university doctoral programs—where research and education are combined—to produce both cutting-edge discoveries and the next generation’s scientists, scholars, and leaders in government and industry.

We hope that the perhaps unavoidable delays will not seriously affect the utility of the data, which was first collected in academic year 2005-2006. Regardless, we believe the information in the report will be enormously beneficial to university administrators as they review their own doctoral research programs in the national context, to students who are seeking the best fit for their interests and abilities, and for others who wish to better understand the extraordinary breadth and depth of doctoral research programs at America’s universities.

###

The Association of American Universities is an association of 61 U.S. and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.